



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN NO. PA230-7-8

SUBJECT: EOP – Civil Rights – Identification of Minority Farmers

Purpose: To provide supplemental information to the SCIMS data distributed with Bulletin PA230-7-7 in an effort to identify minority farmers.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2007

Background: There have been questions regarding information sent out to the field offices several weeks ago concerning the number of minority farmers in each county. The numbers were pulled from the Agricultural Census. It was explained that these statistics are only estimations made by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), based on projections from identified people. NASS has names and mailing address information for minority farmers throughout the state; however, they are prohibited from sharing that information due to privacy issues. Although NASS cannot give NRCS the list, they did agree to send information to their mailing list for NRCS in an effort to assist with our outreach. After NASS did the mailing for NRCS to the minority farmers, they gave NRCS a listing that included only the towns and zip codes of the known farmers located in each county where the mailings were sent. This information not only confirms a more accurate count of minority farmers, but also narrows down the locations in which we need to search and provide better outreach. The information received from NASS is in Excel format and includes county, town, and zip codes. This file will be sent to each District Conservationist and Supervisory District Conservationist for use in outreach. It should be kept in the 230 file.

Action:

1. Every DC will communicate with their staff that it is our agency responsibility to inform every eligible participant about the availability of USDA programs and availability of technical assistance and to do outreach to minority farmers as a part of this responsibility.
2. Once received, every DC will compare the list of towns and zip codes where minority farmers have been identified with the information provided by RSNOD in the SCIMS list and continue to work on a regular basis with other agencies to identify minority farmers and landowners who may be eligible for assistance.



3. DCs will include minority farmers as a part of their ongoing outreach.

Questions or requests for assistance may be directed to Travis Watkins at 717-237-2147 or to travis.watkins@pa.usda.gov.

/s/ Craig R. Derickson

CRAIG R. DERICKSON
State Conservationist

Distribution: AE